

Testimony for Public Hearing Feb.16, 2023

Support HB 6659 if amended to:

Restore the one-third state subsidy to the full cost of the TRB Medicare Supplement Plan.

Dear Chairs Anwar and Ryan, Ranking Members Berthel and Chaleski, and Distinguished Members of General Government A Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee:

Last year the Appropriations Committee doubled the state's healthcare subsidy for retired teachers on the municipal plan because they were not eligible for Medicare. We thank you and the legislators for helping those retired teachers in their time of need.

Retired teacher on TRB Medicare Supplement Plan have similar needs and have been waiting 4 yrs to have their needs addressed.

Will you please provide the funding to restore the one-third state subsidy to the full cost of the TRB Medicare Supplement Plan.

It will simply restore the healthcare benefit that retired teachers had until 2018 when it was taken away 4 yrs ago. The nearly 5,000 retired teachers on this plan will be grateful to you for relieving this financial burden as their health necessitates the Medicare Supplement Plan as they age.

Elderly retired teachers need the protections that the Original Medicare Supplement Plan provides & protects them from privatized prior authorizations and networks. This is the aim of HB 6013 introduced by Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw and Rep.David Rutigliano.

Thank you for your consideration.

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